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Mt. Saint Helen's. The Russians could face contamination of a land area the size of Pennsylvania. This is not a Soviet tragedy. This is a world tragedy. Nothing, not Three Mile Island, not Bhopal, not even the worst commercial plane accident in history, compares potentially to this catastrophe.

What has happened in the Soviet Union in the past few days is the accident that is yet to happen in this country precisely because the Congress, the American public, and Wall Street have insisted on safety precautions.

The fact is that there are known defects in the Soviet nuclear program. Unfortunately, the American nuclear power program also has defects. Last year the Nuclear Regulatory Commission testified before the subcommittee which I chair and reluctantly admitted that its own safety studies suggest that the probability of a core meltdown at a U.S. nuclear plant could be 45 percent in the next 20 years. Over the weekend, it appears that such an accident occurred in the Soviet Union.

To those who say it could not happen here, I can tell you that the fact that the U.S. atomic reactors have containment buildings which may or may not successfully hold deadly radioactive materials from the environment and the public is not comfort enough, given a 50-50 chance of a meltdown.

We should be doing more to ensure that nuclear plants are as safe as possible. This is because a worst case nuclear accident can result in thousands of fatalities and cancers and can contaminate hundreds of square miles.

SOVIET UNION NUCLEAR ACCIDENT

(Mr. WALKER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WALKER. Mr. Speaker, we are all disturbed by the news coming out of the Soviet Union with regard to the nuclear accident which has obviously taken place there and has caused injuries and perhaps thousands of deaths.

What is particularly disturbing is the Soviet response to their accident. First of all, they did not bother to inform the world immediately about it. They allowed a radioactive cloud to drift over Western Europe, and then at one point, after it had been detected, even lied about the accident itself.

I am prepared today to introduce a resolution. It has already had original cosponsorship by about 50 Members of this body. It condemns the Soviet Union's failure to provide the world with notification and information about that nuclear accident, particularly since that catastrophe has such implications for many of the world's nations, particularly neighbors of the Soviet Union.

In addition, the resolution would call on the Soviet Union to allow outside nuclear experts to come in to help

them deal with the accident, and also to allow the international press corps free access to cover the situation so that the world may be assured of complete and reliable information.

I would hope that this resolution is something that could be acted upon very quickly by the House so that we can make the Soviet Union completely aware that we, in this country, are disturbed and concerned about their actions thus far relating to that accident.

□ 1250

OLDER AMERICANS' MONTH

(Mr. BONER of Tennessee asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BONER of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, since May 1986 is Older Americans Month, I would like to take this opportunity to express my concern over administration reports and rumors that the elderly of America are no longer a disadvantaged segment of our society.

Older women, mostly widows, make up 71 percent of the elderly poor. Only 23 percent of older women receive both Social Security and a private pension. I contacted the Census Bureau and was informed that for the year 1984, the median income for women over age 65 who were on Social Security or other pensions was \$6,131—which is less than \$900 over the poverty line of \$5,250.

We cannot rose-color the fact that our elderly need the help of those of us here in Congress to ensure that they can live out their retirement years in a dignity which they richly deserve.

SOLVING "NOTCH" PROBLEM COULD COST \$9 BILLION

(Mr. STRATTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STRATTON. Mr. Speaker, we have had in the last few minutes a number of 1-minute speeches pointing out the so-called notch problem and indicating that some Member is going to do something about it with some particular piece of legislation.

This problem has been before us for a very substantial time, and probably the best expert on it is the gentleman from Texas [Mr. PICKLE], the former chairman of the Subcommittee on Social Security of the House Committee on Ways and Means. Mr. PICKLE has pointed out that if we were to solve this particular problem by the means suggested, it would require some \$9 billion, and Congressman PICKLE pointed out at the time that that amount of money was the money that had to be included in the Social Security fund at the time that Congress, in 1982, approved legislation to keep Social Security fiscally solvent

until the year 2027, the bipartisan proposals of the Greenspan Commission strengthened it with the resolutions that came out of the Greenspan committee.

I know that this is a perplexing problem that has upset a large number of our constituents, but it is not going to be solved in a couple of days, and in the year of Gramscian-Rudman austerity, \$9 billion will be hard to come by. Let's not give our constituents false hopes.

COMMENDING DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE JOHN N. McMAHON

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the Senate concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 138) to commend Deputy Director of Central Intelligence John N. McMahon for exceptionally distinguished service to the United States of America, and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Indiana?

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, I yield to the gentleman from Indiana.

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, the purpose of this resolution is to honor John N. McMahon, who recently retired as Deputy Director of Central Intelligence. John served 34½ years in the intelligence business, nearly all of them at the Central Intelligence Agency.

To those in the Congress who knew him, particularly on the Intelligence Committee, he was as fine a public servant as has appeared before any committee of the House or Senate. He had a well-deserved reputation for honesty, candor, and knowledge. He used those traits and very hard work to gain solid achievement in service to this Nation's intelligence efforts. As a high intelligence official under three Presidents, he earned each one's admiration and respect. He was a great supporter of responsible congressional oversight.

But, it is not just the Congress or any one President who will miss him the most. It will be his colleagues, coworkers, and subordinates at the Central Intelligence Agency and within the intelligence community who, no doubt, will experience this loss most severely. Year after year John McMahon gave the intelligence community and policymakers sage advice. He has been the conscience and the continuity of what many of us consider to be the finest intelligence capability in the world.

Mr. Speaker, Senate Concurrent Resolution 133 attempts to say this in a complimentary fashion and it is a worthy vehicle for the expression by this House of thanks for John's service

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to this country. However, the words of this resolution will never capture the essential force of this man who is a living embodiment of the intelligence professional upon whom this country so often and so greatly depends every day to protect its security.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I urge the adoption of this resolution and the recognition of appreciation of John N. McMahon that it represents.

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, further reserving the right to object, I associate myself with the remarks of my colleague and chairman of the House Intelligence Committee in commending John McMahon for his 34 years of dedicated service to this Nation. The intelligence community will miss his knowledge, capability, and contributions.

John McMahon has distinguished himself on numerous occasions before the House Intelligence Committee and other committees of Congress. As a hallmark of John McMahon's service and as a standard for those who follow him. John always conducted himself in a professional, honest, and forthright manner. It seems most fitting that Congress would honor John McMahon in his retirement for a job well done.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Massachusetts [Mr. BOLAND], the distinguished former chairman of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

Mr. BOLAND. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of Senate Concurrent Resolution 133 to honor John N. McMahon for his long and distinguished career in the intelligence service of our country.

I met John in 1977 when I became chairman of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence in that capacity, and in the contacts I have had with him since I left the committee, I have found John to be thoroughly competent, strictly honest, and unwaveringly fair, not only in his relationship with the Intelligence Committee, but in his dealings with the Congress at large.

The essential characteristic of John McMahon, that which defined him as a public servant and which defines him as an individual, is his integrity. As the distinguished chairman of the Intelligence Committee, the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. HAMILTON] remarked earlier, it was the essential integrity of John McMahon that has helped show the American people that the profession of intelligence is an honorable one—one that deserves the support and appreciation of the American people.

His career also deserves our highest praise. John McMahon held every single intelligence position of importance within the Central Intelligence Agency, save that of the Director. In my judgment, he was the key influence behind some of the wisest policy

decisions ever made by the intelligence community. But, beyond those important achievements, John made a singularly beneficial contribution to the morale of his colleagues. His example of the way in which to discharge essential, but often thankless duties, was an inspiration to those with whom he worked, and those, with whom his work, brought him into contact. It is therefore appropriate that we take note of his distinguished career. I enthusiastically support the passage of this resolution.

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Indiana?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the Senate concurrent resolution, as follows:

S. CON. RES. 133

Whereas, John McMahon has devoted his entire professional career to the intelligence service of his Nation, performing with dedication, honor and distinction for nearly 35 years since his graduation from the College of the Holy Cross in 1951;

Whereas, John McMahon's career has been one of outstanding accomplishment in diverse intelligence duties spanning the full range of technical, operational and analytical intelligence activities;

Whereas, John McMahon has an unparalleled record of service in key Central Intelligence Agency positions, including Executive Director, Deputy Director for Intelligence and Deputy Director for Operations, and also has had key management responsibilities for Intelligence Community affairs;

Whereas, John McMahon's career progression from communications clerk to Deputy Director of Central Intelligence personifies the finest traditions of our Nation's professional intelligence officers;

Whereas, John McMahon's many commendations and awards, including two Distinguished Intelligence Medals, testify to his extraordinary skill and outstanding leadership;

Whereas, during a period of increasingly varied and complex international developments of concern to the United States, in which demands for timely, accurate intelligence information to support national policymakers are becoming simultaneously more intense and diverse, John McMahon has been instrumental in preparing the Intelligence Community for the challenges of the future and has thus made a major and lasting contribution to the national security of the United States;

Whereas, John McMahon has earned the respect, admiration, and trust of the highest officials in the executive and legislative branches of our Government, and particularly of the present and former members of the Intelligence Committees of the Senate and House of Representatives for his integrity and positive approach to Congressional oversight of our Nation's intelligence activities: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That on the occasion of his retirement from an extraordinary career of public service, the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America express and record on behalf of the American people, their deep appreciation to John N. McMahon for his exceptionally distinguished service to the United States.

The Senate concurrent resolution was concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the Senate concurrent resolution just concurred in.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Indiana?

There was not objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the provisions of clause 5, rule I, the Chair announces that he will postpone further proceedings today on each motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 4 of rule XV.

Such rollcall votes, if postponed, will be taken after debate has been concluded on all motions to suspend the rules.

□ 1000

OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY AND COUNCIL ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY AUTHORIZATIONS, 1987, 1988, AND 1989

Mr. BREAU. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4353) to authorize appropriations for the operations of the Office of Environmental Quality and the Council on Environmental Quality during fiscal years 1987, 1988, and 1989.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4353

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That section 205(d) of the Environmental Quality Improvement Act of 1970 (42 U.S.C. 4374(d)) is amended by striking out "and September 30, 1986," and inserting in lieu thereof "1986, 1987, 1988, and 1989."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, a second is not required on this motion.

The gentleman from Louisiana [Mr. BREAU] will be recognized for 20 minutes and the gentleman from Alaska [Mr. Young] will be recognized for 20 minutes.

Mr. BREAU. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. BREAU asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BREAU. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4353 would provide continuing authority under the Environmental Quality Improvement Act of 1970 to provide